



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/089,456	05/24/2002	Henrik Chistiansen	PATRADE	9385

7590 07/31/2003
James C Wray
Suite 300
1493 Chain Bridge Road
McLean, VA 22101

EXAMINER

HINZE, LEO T

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2854

DATE MAILED: 07/31/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/089,456

Applicant(s)

CHISTIANSEN, HENRIK

Examiner

Leo T. Hinze

Art Unit

2854

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 May 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 May 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 6. 6) ☐ Other: _____

Art Unit: 2854

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 1-9 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Regarding claim 1, the syntax of line 3 makes the scope of the claim unclear. It appears that “a” should be inserted between “and” and “moistening”.

Regarding claim 2, the claim as written appears to suggest that the plate cylinder and the blanket cylinder have the same axis of rotation. Adding “cylinder” after “plate” in line 3, and adding “the” before “blanket” would clarify the scope of the claim.

Regarding claims 6 and 8, the claims recites the limitation "transfer roller" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Regarding claims 3-7 and 9, the inconsistent reference to the “unit” which acts as the coating means and water application means first claimed in claim 3, line 4, and described as “a unit comprising a doctor blade and at least one roller,” makes the scope of the claims unclear. For example, claims 4 and 5 refer to “the coating means”. Claim 6 appears to be further limiting the scope of claim 3 by further describing “the unit”, although the unit is described as “the doctor blade/transfer roller.” Claim 7 just refers to “the unit”, while claim 9 refers to “the unit comprising the doctor blade and the at least one roller.” A consistent reference to the unit as “the unit comprising the doctor blade and the at least one roller,” as in claim 9, or as “the unit comprising the coating means and the water application means,” or even “the unit” would greatly clarify the scope of the claims.

Art Unit: 2854

Appropriate correction and/or clarification is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 1, 2, 4, and 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claim 1, and the limitation “interacting roller” in line 4, it is not clear if interacting is meant to describe a spatial or structural relationship of the roller with the doctor blade, or if the term “interacting” generally described the roller as one which interacts with other elements in general. Examination will proceed as if the roller is one which interacts with other elements in general.

Regarding claim 4, it is unclear how the claim is attempting to further limit the coating means. Claim 3 appears to describe the coating means and the water application means as being a single unit, while the language in line 2 of claim 3, “the coating means only...” appears to try and further limit the coating means only, and in doing so, to describe the coating means and water application means as separate elements. However, it also appears that the claim could be trying to further limit the at least one roller of both the coating means and water application means of claim 3, by claiming that the at least one roller is one transfer roller, and that the

Art Unit: 2854

transfer roller is a screen roller. Examination will proceed as if claim 4 is further limiting the at least one roller to be one screen roller.

Regarding claim 6, the claim attempts to further limit the unit to be mounted pivotably. However, claim 3 limits the unit to being mounted slidably. It is unclear how the unit can be both pivotable and slidable. Examination will proceed as if "slidable" of claim 3 is "movable."

Regarding claim 7, the term "preferably" renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear whether the limitations following the term, "coupling means for a cleaning unit known per se for the plate cylinder," are part of the claimed invention. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

Regarding claim 8, the term "preferably" renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear whether the limitations following the term, "via a motor controlled by a line signal from the main machine," are part of the claimed invention. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

Appropriate correction and/or clarification is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fischer, US 4,421,027 in view of Johne et al, GB 2 119 711 A.

Art Unit: 2854

Fischer teaches a method for operating a printing unit in an offset machine in which the printing unit comprises a unit (11) used for coating and as a moistening unit for applying water (col. 1, lines 42-54), wherein the unit is displaced between a first position for transferring water via a plate cylinder to a blanket cylinder (Fig. 1) and a second position for transferring coating directly to the blanket cylinder (Fig. 3).

Fischer does not teach a printing unit which comprises a doctor blade used for coating and as a moistening unit for applying water. Fischer instead uses a trough (12) and ductor roller (13) to transfer the applied medium.

Johne teaches a printing unit which comprises a doctor blade (12) used for coating and as a moistening unit for applying water. Johnne also teaches that a doctor blade in combination with a screen roller (1) assures that sufficient moistening agent of printing lacquer can always be transferred (p. 2, lines 1-3).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Fischer to replace the trough and ductor roller with a unit which comprises a doctor blade used for coating and as a moistening unit for applying water, because Johnne teaches that such a combination is advantageous for assuring that sufficient moistening agent of printing lacquer can always be transferred.

6. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fischer in view of Johnne, as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Stapleford, GB 1 138 055.

Art Unit: 2854

The combination of Fischer and Johne substantially teaches all that is claimed as discussed above, except wherein the displacement is a pivoting about an axis in parallel with the rotational axis of the plate and blanket cylinder.

Stapleford teaches a dampening system (15) which is movable to apply medium to either the plate (10) or blanket (11) cylinder, said movement being a pivoting movement (p. 2, lines 8-12).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify Fischer so that the displacement is a pivoting, because Stapleford teaches that a pivoting movement is a well known method of moving a dampening unit between printing and blanket cylinders, and one having ordinary skill in the art would recognize the pivoting movement of Stapleford as an acceptable alternative to the movement of Fischer.

7. Claims 3, 5, and 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fischer in view of Johne and Kiyoshi, JP 59209875.

Fischer teaches:

- a printing unit for use in a method according to claim 1 in an offset machine, comprising means for coating and means for applying water, and where the coating means and the water application means are constituted by a unit (11) comprising at least one roller (13) for transferring coating or water (col. 1, lines 42-54), wherein the coating and water application unit is arranged movable between a first position (Fig. 1) for bringing said at least one roller in contact with the plate cylinder, and a second position

Art Unit: 2854

(Fig. 3) for bringing said at least one roller in direct contact with the blanket cylinder of the printing unit, as discussed in the above rejection of claim 1 (claim 3);

- wherein the unit is provided with coupling means (16, 37) which are arranged for being connected releasably with coupling means (32, 33) in the frame of the offset machine (claim 7);
- wherein the transfer roller is driven by its own motor (29) (claim 8);
- wherein the unit comprising the at least one roller is mounted in the offset machine in an exchangeable way with the existing moistening unit of the offset machine (col. 1, lines 55-64) (claim 9).

Fischer does not teach:

- where the coating means and the water application means are constituted by a unit comprising a doctor blade, and a first position for bringing said at least one roller in contact with a roller engaging the plate cylinder. Fischer instead uses a trough (12) and doctor roller (13) to transfer the applied medium (claim 3).
- wherein the coating means comprises transfer rollers in the form of a screen roller and a rubber roller for transferring water from the doctor blade to the plate cylinder and one screen roller for transferring coating directly to the blanket cylinder (claim 5).

Johne teaches:

- where the coating means and the water application means are constituted by a unit comprising a doctor blade (12) (claim 3);

Art Unit: 2854

- that a doctor blade in combination with a screen roller (1) assures that sufficient moistening agent of printing lacquer can always be transferred (p. 2, lines 1-3).
- wherein the coating means comprises transfer rollers in the form of a screen roller (1) and a rubber roller (5, 5') for transferring water from the doctor blade to the plate cylinder and one screen roller for transferring coating to the blanket cylinder (claim 5).

Kiyoshi teaches a combined dampening and varnishing device including:

- a first position (Fig. 7B) for bringing said at least one roller (39, 52, and 66) in contact with a roller (79) engaging the plate cylinder (claim 3).

Regarding claims 3 and 5, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Fischer to replace the trough and doctor roller with a unit which comprises a doctor blade used for coating and as a moistening unit for applying water, and wherein the coating means comprises transfer rollers in the form of a screen roller and a rubber roller for transferring water from the doctor blade to the plate cylinder and one screen roller for transferring coating directly to the blanket cylinder, because Johne teaches that such a combination is advantageous for assuring that sufficient moistening agent of printing lacquer can always be transferred.

Further regarding claim 3, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Fischer to include a first position for bringing said at least one roller in contact with a roller engaging the plate cylinder, because Kiyoshi teaches that this is advantageous, in that it allows a hard roller to run on the soft blanket cylinder, and an additional rubber roller to be placed between the hard roller and the hard plate cylinder.

Art Unit: 2854

Regarding claims 7-9, the combination of Fischer, Johne, and Kiyoshi teaches all that is claimed as discussed above.

8. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fischer in view of Johne and Kiyoshi as applied to claim 3 above, and further in view of Schütz, GB 2 327 196 A.

The combination of Fischer, Johne, and Kiyoshi teaches all that is claimed as discussed in the rejection of claim 3, except wherein the coating means only comprises one transfer roller in the shape of a screen roller transferring coating directly from the doctor blade to the blanket cylinder.

Schütz teaches a varnishing unit wherein the coating means only comprises one transfer roller (9) in the shape of a screen roller transferring coating directly from the doctor blade (10) to the blanket cylinder. Schütz teaches that such a coating means is advantageous because it requires a small amount of space (p. 5, lines 17-18).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify Fischer wherein the coating means only comprises one transfer roller in the shape of a screen roller transferring coating directly from the doctor blade to the blanket cylinder, because Schütz teaches that such a coating means requires a small amount of space.

9. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fischer in view of Johne and Kiyoshi as applied to claim 3 above, and further in view of Stapleford.

Art Unit: 2854

The combination of Fischer, Johne, and Kiyoshi teaches all that is claimed as discussed in the above rejections of claim 3, except wherein the doctor blade/transfer roller unit is mounted pivotably in relation to the plate cylinder and the blanket cylinder.

Stapleford teaches a dampening system (15) which is movable to apply medium to either the plate (10) or blanket (11) cylinder, said movement being a pivoting movement (p. 2, lines 8-12).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify Fischer so that the displacement is a pivoting, because Stapleford teaches that a pivoting movement is a well known method of moving a dampening unit between printing and blanket cylinders, and one having ordinary skill in the art would recognize the pivoting movement of Stapleford as an acceptable alternative to the movement of Fischer.

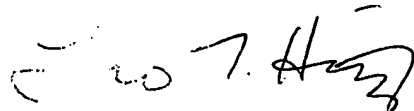
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Leo T. Hinze whose telephone number is (703) 305-3339. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00-5:30.

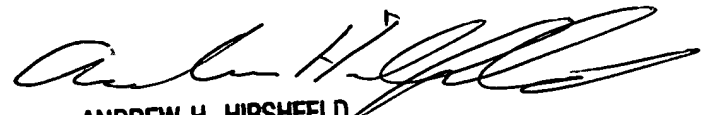
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Hirshfeld can be reached on (703) 305-6619. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 308-7722 for After Final communications.

Art Unit: 2854

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-0952.



Leo T. Hinze
Patent Examiner
AU 2854
July 21, 2003



ANDREW H. HIRSHFELD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800